

**History 4990-003:
Senior Seminar:
The Social and Cultural History of Medicine**

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This course approaches the study of health and sickness from a social and cultural perspective, placing the experience of illness and its treatment within its historical context. The class is thematic and explores the emergence of “modern medicine” from the eighteenth century to the present day in both England and America. Over the course of the semester we will investigate the relationship between the sick and multiple kinds of healers, the gendered and raced aspects of medical theory and practice, and the politics of medical science. As this is a seminar it will be reading and writing intensive.

Required Reading:

The following books are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please buy them early as unpurchased copies are returned to the publisher after 5 weeks:

Ludmilla Jordanova, *Sexual Visions*
Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers*
Susan Reverby, *Tuskegee's Truths*
Ruth Richardson, *Death, Dissection, and the Destitute*
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale*

Additional required readings are available on reserve at the library or on e-reserves. Please photocopy or download these readings and bring them with you to class. Please notify me if anything has been scanned incorrectly.

Assignments and Grades:

Attendance and participation in class discussions	20%
Response papers	20%
Proposal for research paper with bibliography (Feb. 9)	10%
Primary source assignment (March 9)	20%
Research paper (April 27)	30%

Response papers are due no later than 12p.m. on the day of class. These should be left in my box or emailed to me in the body of the email, not as an attachment unless it is in MS word for Mac.

They should be one full page, double-spaced, and are intended to be a response to the assigned readings for the week. They should be in the form of a question you would like to explore further in class, a comment on **one aspect** of the readings that you found interesting, or a critique of the historian's argument. They **should not be a summary** of the readings, but rather an engagement with the texts.

All assignments are due as indicated. I will take half a letter grade off for each day late. Thus a B+ paper that is one day late becomes a B. Late response papers will receive no marks. Do not slip papers under my office door. If you do not hand the assignment to me directly, please have it date stamped by one of the History Department office staff in 211 and then leave it in my box. Please keep a copy of every assignment in case the original goes missing.

I will not tolerate any form of plagiarism. If I discover that you have plagiarized or misrepresented your work to me in any way, I will fail you for the course and bring your case to the Academic Misconduct Committee which may result in your expulsion. The University's student code can be found online at: www.saff.utah.edu/code.html.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact the instructor of this course at the beginning of the semester to discuss any such accommodations for this course.

January 12 Introduction

January 19 The 18thc Medical Marketplace

Irvine Loudon, "This Vile Race of Quacks"

Ginnie Smith, "Prescribing the Rules of Health: Self-Help and Advice in the Late 18thc"

Roy Porter, "Before the Fringe: Quackery and the 18thc Medical Market"

January 26 Library Research

We will spend this class in the library learning how to do historical research.

February 2 Midwives and Medical Men

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale*

February 9 Doctors and Patients

N.D. Jewson, "The Disappearance of the Sick Man from Medical Cosmology"

Mary Fissell, "The Disappearance of the Patient's Narrative and the Rise of Hospital Medicine"

Paul Starr, "The Social Origins of Professional Sovereignty"

February 16 Anatomy

Ruth Richardson, *Death, Dissection, and the Destitute*

February 23 Medical Science and Women's Bodies

Ludmilla Jordanova, *Sexual Visions*

March 2 Research Day NO CLASS

March 9 Medical Resistance

Logie Barrow, "Democratic Epistemology: Mid-19th-century Plebeian Medicine"

John Pickstone and Ursula Miley, "Medical Botany Around 1850"

Anne Scott, "Physical Purity Feminism and State Medicine"

Nadja Durbach, "They Might as Well Brand Us"

March 16 SPRING BREAK

March 23 From Dirt to Germs

Christopher Hamlin, "Predisposing Causes and Public Health in Early Nineteenth Century Medical Thought"

Margaret Pelling, "Contagion/Germ theory/Specificity"

Alison Bashford, "Sterile Bodies: Germs and the Gendered Practitioner"

March 30 Contagion and Infected Others

Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers*

April 6 Race and Medicine

Susan Reverby, *Tuskegee's Truths*

April 13 AIDS

Steven Epstein, "The Construction of Lay Expertise: AIDS Activism and the Forging of Credibility in the Reform of Clinical Trials"

James Jones, "AIDS: Is it genocide?" from *Bad Blood*

Emily Martin, "Visions of the Immune System" from *Flexible Bodies*

April 20 Modern Medicine at the End of Life

Film: *Wit*

April 27 Presentations